

Amendments to the Claims:

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (currently amended) An occupant protection system for deploying a deployable air bag from a ~~concealed location in a~~ vehicle instrument panel having an opening, the protection system comprising:

an air bag normally ~~containable~~ in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the instrument panel opening and deployable through the instrument panel opening as a protection for the occupant; and

the air bag having a skin ~~and~~ including a closure portion of that ~~skin completely closes~~ provides the sole closure of the instrument panel opening and is directly exposed to an occupant compartment of the vehicle when the air bag is deflated, and ~~remaining as a the~~ closure portion of the air bag ~~after moving outwardly from the instrument panel opening as the~~ air bag is deployed.

2.-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) In combination, a vehicle having an air bag deployable upon vehicle impact and an occupant protection system for deploying a deployable air bag from a ~~concealed location in a~~ vehicle instrument panel having an opening, the protection system comprising:

an air bag normally ~~containable~~ in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the instrument panel opening and deployable upon vehicle impact through the instrument panel opening as a protection for the occupant; and

the air bag having a skin ~~and~~ including a closure portion of that ~~skin completely closes~~ provides the sole closure of the instrument panel opening and is directly exposed to an occupant compartment of the vehicle when the air bag is deflated, and ~~remaining as a the~~ closure portion of the air bag ~~after moving outwardly from the instrument panel opening as the~~ air bag is deployed.

5. (previously presented) The occupant protection system of claim 1 wherein the skin that closes the opening is flush with the vehicle instrument panel.

6. (previously presented) The combination of claim 4 wherein the skin that closes the opening is flush with the vehicle instrument panel.